

Villa Mahe - Therèse Cannes. Dec 21/65

My dear Mamma

Ever since the Calais packet collision the post has been all astray, papers come behind time and soaked. Letters ditto. The almanac only arrived to day, fortunately it had not suffered. I have made arrangements to stay on some days longer at all events, in this house; it is pleasant being with ones relatives and I like the house. Madame Fatio (née de Beligny) and her servants are Swiss, all from the Pays Vaud and I feel quite at home with them, they are ever so much pleasanter than French people. Madame F. has one invalid daughter, whose health brings her here, and the whole house has a pleasant Swiss aspect, internally only of course. I breakfast at 8 alone with Madame F. and as she cannot speak a word of anything but French it is good practice for me. I have now got Dawson Green's room and must turn out when he comes into a room on the west side of

the house, and if I like it shall very likely remain in this house. Some of the larger pensions would be gayer I dare say, the company is English everywhere on this side of the town and chiefly so on the other also. Cannes consists of one very long street running east and west, at the eastern end of this are the Grand Hotel and many hotels and Pensions and the ground is flat and just on the sea level; at the ~~eastern~~^{we} end of this street is an abrupt rocky hill covered with native houses and a chapel on the top, ~~east~~^{west} of this the road is lined with Villas, Chateaux and a few Pensions the Bellevue where the Ps are is a few hundred yards off it, up the hill inland, this house being half way between the Bellevue and the road. There are hills east and west protecting this bay, the lovely Golfe de la Napoule, and the country to the north slopes up gradually to the Alpes Maritimes, the higher ranges of which are now snow clad, and look glorious, but they cannot be seen from the

town. For a week there has not been a cloud, the sky and sea are deep blue and in the middle of the day the sun is so hot that most people carry white sun-brellas, but I enjoy the sun. The olives here are much finer than at Hyères, or rather I should say are more tree-like and graceful. There are immense quantities of small orange trees, a few lemons, but scarcely any palms. The general aspect of the country is bare compared to Hyères and the soil and air are very much drier. There are very many Irish people here and by the list from Nice I guess they are about to be deluged with Americans there. On this coast they put down in the list Anglais - Maudais Ecossois &c and do not call all Anglais as elsewhere.

I have called on Miss Campbell who was very friendly; she is a genuine Scotchwoman and no mistake either in voice or features. She asked me to come and see her now and then. I foresee I shall probably want some clothes and as foreign tailors

and fits
~~and~~ stuffs, are dear and doubtful I wish
enquiries were made regarding sending
out small parcels. Wharton has got all
needful measurements. Try Globe parcels
Express. There is a Continental Parcels Ex-
-press in London, vide first page of Times.
I will write what I want some other time
as there is no immediate hurry.

Tuesday afternoon I was one of a walking
party of some dozen people from the
Bellevue &c, two donkeys for children
and tired ladies. I don't give names as
I should have a shower of questions that
would take some pages of genealogical
writing to answer, - the names must
come out by degrees. I have invested two
francs in a guide book and map this
morning. It seems good and is only just
out, it is dated 1866. Mr Rolfe has
service every day in the church; there are
so many parsons here that I fancy
his duties are not very heavy.
Love to all at Rostrevor. Yours of 15th came
Yesterday. Your affectionate son
Francis C. Prendergast.